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YUSN Alumnae Bulletin

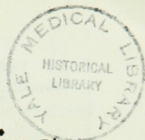
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Yale University School of Nursing

ALUMNAE BULLETIN

 Vol. VI, No. 16

New Haven, Connecticut

 Spring, 1956

FROM OUR DEAN

May I use this means to express my very real appreciation for the many letters received from alumnae concerning the changes in The Y.S.N. program. The sincere interest evidenced in the welfare of the School and the moral support offered have been really sustaining factors to those of us who have been coping with the problems on the home-ground. Eventually I shall hope to reply to each of the letters individually.

Personally I share the reactions of surprise, shock, and dismay at the seemingly sudden decision of the Corporation to discontinue the basic program. But I think it very important for all of us to remember that we *still* have a Yale School of Nursing. We still have a contribution to make to nursing, and it is up to us, with the avowed support of the University Administration, to make sure that the graduate program will live up to our ideals for Y.S.N. As alumnae we also have a responsibility, wherever we are, to work for the improvement of nursing and nursing education. The fact that our own basic program is being terminated should not lessen our firm conviction that there is a definite place for the college woman in the profession, and it is hoped that we will renew our ef-

forts to attract to other collegiate programs the promising candidates we would have welcomed in our own basic course, and to make nursing a desirable goal for these individuals.

On Alumnae Day I told a story of a friend who, with a companion, found herself in a difficult situation. She remarked 'It looks as though we're coming out of the small end of the horn this time'; whereupon her companion replied 'Any fool can get out of the big end!' If the situation into which we have been forced seemed to some of us like the small end of the horn, let us emerge with dignity, remembering that it has always been the pride of the nurse that she could somehow meet her assignment and summon the courage and good humor to go forward into the tasks of the coming day.

Here at the School individuals and committees are working on the curriculum for the graduate program. We are getting enthusiastic support from our colleagues at Yale as the faculty of the Department of Public Health and of the Department of Industrial Administration. Suggestions from all the alumnae will be welcomed. We shall keep you informed of progress and as soon as material on the proposed program is ready for distribution you will receive a copy. We have

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been gratified at the number of letters received to date from nurses inquiring about the possibilities of enrollment. Although we anticipate a limited registration this fall, we believe we have an opportunity to enter upon a new and stimulating development in the life of the School.

Elizabeth S. Bixler

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Watch for further material on Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones, nominee by petition for the Corporation. He is a former Dean of Yale Medical School, '35-'40, and now, Consultant for the Armed Forces Research Board, Washington, D.C. Will you and your Yale friends support him? He should be well alerted to current medical, nursing and scientific needs.

ALUMNAE DAY-FEBRUARY 18, 1956

BRADY AUDITORIUM

Editor's note: The minutes taken at the February 18th meeting of Y.U.S.N.A.A. are being printed in near entirety. We believe those of you who were not with us want, especially this year, to receive more than a summary of the meeting.

Our sincere thanks go to the combined efforts of Misses Naomi Barber, Myrtie Carpenter, Germaine Boucher, and Mrs. Leo Simmons in making these minutes so complete.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Miss Katherine Davis. Following a welcome to all, Miss Davis reminded those pre-

sent that the annual business meeting would be held in June as per usual. She reported that the Alumnae Board has discussed the possibility of calling an extra business meeting for this day but the majority opinion was not to call a special meeting, and the regular one will be held on June 9th, 1956.

Miss Davis explained that at the time of the January 9th meeting the Board knew nothing of the University's decision concerning the curriculum changes within the School of Nursing. After learning of these changes, a Board meeting was called for January 23rd. With a desire for University interpretation for the entire Alumnae body, it was decided that an invitation would be extended to President Griswold to address the Alumnae Association.

An invitation was sent by mail. Miss Davis reported that Mr. Griswold had agreed just shortly before the meeting began to come and talk with us. He had already met with the Alumnae Advisory Council the previous afternoon. Miss Davis reminded the Alumnae that the Corporation had voted on the decision, and it was not Mr. Griswold who alone made the decision. She expressed gratitude for his coming to attempt to give some university interpretation--whether we agree or disagree. There are two sides to most issues.

Miss Bixler was then introduced. She gave a general welcome and expressed her thanks for the evidence of concern and loyalty to the School, as shown by the number present at this meeting. Miss Bixler said that she knew that not all of our questions could be answered to day, but hoped that some points would be clarified. She stated that,

primarily for the sake of the Faculty, she wished to make it clear that the recent decision of the Corporation was not made on the recommendation of the School, nor of any committee that she knows of. She was informed of the decision on January 9th, two days after it was made. However, since the decision has been made, it is important to think of the future.

Miss Bixler stated that she could not at this time announce a definite curriculum for the future program, but would give us some idea of the plans. In spite of some strikes against us there are favorable aspects to be considered. The President and the Corporation are interested and will back the new program. We have the resources of the University and can get what we need from other departments. The Medical School is enthusiastic, particularly the Department of Public Health. We have the resources of the medical center - a definite asset.

Two weeks ago a conference was held, mainly of alumnae from New Haven, New York, Boston and Pittsburgh. Jean Barrett of Syracuse and Helen Nahm of the National League of Nursing were also present and there was spirited discussion of a possible curriculum. Conferences have been held with many individuals on the Yale faculty.

Miss Bixler indicated a few of the plans developed to date. She spoke of the need for breadth and depth of knowledge - breadth through the social sciences and depth through nursing and medical sciences in a particular clinical area. The emphasis will be on the clinical approach rather than the functional, but skills in teaching and in administration will be

taught through supervised practice experience. This fall it is planned to offer clinical majors in mental health and psychiatric nursing, in public health nursing and in maternity nursing. The plan is to use an investigative approach to the needs of patients and to problems of nurses and nursing, in the spirit of intellectual curiosity. Classes will be in the form of seminar discussions. In many cases the MSN students will participate in classes with students from other disciplines. The curriculum will not be overloaded with class hours but sufficient time will be allowed the students to carry out clinical investigation which will be based on experiences with patients.

Miss Bixler made it clear that the School will be selective in its acceptance of applicants. She expressed the need of the School for the support of its alumnae and assured us that the School will do its best to make the new program a good one.

In the discussion period which followed, there were a number of questions, many pertaining to finances. The School has been assured of financial support from the University, and a request has been made for scholarship and fellowship aid for students. It is recognized that top-flight faculty, with good salaries, will be needed. The original endowment from the Rockefeller Foundation is still intact and the School receives approximately \$45000 annually in interest. Concerning admission requirements, each school sets its own; for this program the students must have a bachelor's degree and must be graduate nurses. The Graduate Record Examination will be a requirement but not a reading knowledge of

French or German. A doctoral program will probably be developed in the future.

There were also questions concerning the need of the Hospital for the Yale students. Miss Ryle clarified the status of the several schools of nursing in the Medical Center and assured the group that the Hospital will assist our School in any way possible to make the new program a good one. Miss Davis then introduced the new co-chairmen of the AWG Fund, Elizabeth Plummer and Lucy Conant. Mrs. Stude, the retiring chairman reported the Fund now amounts to \$59,000.

Mrs. Stude asked the Alumnae to evaluate for themselves their feelings for the future of the School and the new program. There is a year left for reaching the goal set. Some committee members and alumnae have raised questions concerning the meaning of an endowed chair, if the purpose of the Fund can be changed, or if it could be used for projects outside of Yale. The committee would like alumnae suggestions and support. Current suggestions are:

A 'wait and see' policy-from a few months to several years.

Continue with the Fund, but use the interest for something now.

Continue with a concerted drive, going to Corporations, Foundations, Alumnae and outsides,

Use the money for a professorship for the program, or scholarships or girls with a college degree to use for basic nursing education at superior schools,

Clarification of the Alumni Fund of the University and the A.W.G. Fund.

Questions from the floor were answered by Mrs. Stude. The AWG

Committee handles the Fund for the Alumnae Association. The money is invested by the University and is drawing 4½% interest. If the purpose of the Fund were to be changed, outside advice should be sought, in view of the considerable amounts given by others than our own alumnae. In response to an expressed desire for information on future decisions, Mrs. Stude assured the group that such information will be sent out.

Miss Davis then announced that the classes of '26, '31, '36, '41, '46, '46W and '51 would be reuniting this June. The banquet will be on June 9th, and graduation on June 11th.

In response to questions there was some discussion of the date of the Alumnae day in June, some individuals indicating that the week-end of Yale's reunion would be more convenient for those whose husbands are also returning to Yale. Miss Davis indicated that the Board will consider the various proposals made.

After a brief intermission, Miss Davis presented President Griswold.

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Mr. Griswold began his talk with a text which he considered suitable. Choosing certain lines from *Romeo and Juliet*, as spoken by the nurse, he witfully made some appropriate references to the current situation.

Then, speaking for the decision concerning the future curriculum of the school, Mr. Griswold said this was a definite decision made by a group of men - the administrative officers of the University. He then gave a brief history of the tradition behind these officers. He explained that they

had given this matter serious thought. The decision was not light or hurried. Systematic studies had been made by committees composed of University people and outside individuals - from medicine, nursing and higher education in general. They did not discount the record and tradition of the Yale School of Nursing, which is familiar to all and a source of pride.

Studies have been going on since he came here as President. They were brought into sharper focus with the appointment of Council Committees which analyzed affairs of the nursing and medical schools. These committees made their recommendations in 1953.

Last spring there were two reports. One was from the University Council, with background information to inform him and his colleagues of the needs and ideals of this profession. Much essential data in the report needed to be refined, sifted, and made more concrete. A special committee was set up, including Dean Bixler, Dean Lippard of the Medical School and one member from the staff of each, along with Mrs. Tilson, the executive assistant to President Griswold. They took the crude ore and gave it refinement, translating it to a specific curriculum proposal. One specific major premise was the need in the nursing profession for more and better trained leaders at the top. One major conclusion to which everyone agreed was a need for an advanced program to which all the University resources could be applied.

There was the question of combining a 2/3 basic program and a 1/3 graduate program. This went to the Corporation, and they decided to put their money and efforts on

the graduate program and not attempt to do both. Since this time he has discussed this with the Student Council, the Advisory Council and with several alumnae. The consensus of the students and alumnae was to give advanced work, but not to stop the basic program.

President Griswold said he probably could not convince us, but they feel the decision is correct. The fact is, the decision was taken deliberately and they know there will be certain problems to be worked out. One has to take a chance when going forward in any direction. This is 'terra incognita'. They have consulted with faculty members in various schools at Yale and elsewhere, and have been encouraged to take this step because, in the view of many, it represents the identical interests of University.

In the need for leadership at the top, Yale University's standpoint will be in the tradition of Yale, Harvard and the Universities of Europe for the advancement of learning. Therefore, they will measure and test against that principle. 'Advancement of learning' does not mean useful skills. It means discovery - a difficult stretching of muscles to learn something more significant about life on this planet. This is what they hope for the new graduate program in nursing at Yale - for a profession that says it needs it and, we agree, ought to have it. To open the doors of the best of any and all it has to offer is a step forward without rationalizing or apologizing.

These are the hopes and beliefs of the men who took part in the decision. It has to prove it-



self by being done right and better than right. Mr. Griswold said his hope, and the hope of the Corporation, is that the decision will be accepted, at least in its intentions, and that the University will be given the benefit of the doubt in order to make the decision most effective and in order that new ground may be broken for the hope and promise of our profession. The President assured us that the new program will have the support of the University.

At the conclusion of his talk, President Griswold left the meeting and Miss Davis introduced Mrs. Halpert, Chairman of the Alumnae Advisory Council.

Mrs. Halpert expressed her feeling that President Griswold is

gaining in his concepts of nursing, and that he poses a good challenge to the YSN of the future. She indicated that there might be a time when some sort of experimental program in basic nursing would be developed in which the college woman might find a new place. Some of the findings that come out of the contemplated graduate program may be forerunners of new trends in nursing education. Nursing cannot be static.

Something of the heart of nursing we may not as yet have interpreted to some of our other friends and associates, and the challenge comes back to us.

Miss Davis adjourned the meeting, which was followed by a tea at Nathan Smith Hall.

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